

The Honorable Dave Hinson
Missouri House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 411A
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Mr. Hinson:

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2016, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, regarding our rejection of the state of Missouri's recommendation that the Franklin County Missouri Area be classified as "unclassifiable" for the 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Your letter requests that the EPA use the best scientific data available to determine the air quality around the Labadie Energy Center in Franklin County. I am writing on behalf of the EPA to acknowledge receipt of your letter.

Specifically, your letter includes data collected at two air monitors installed in April 2015 at locations around the Labadie Energy Center indicating no exceedances of the standard have been recorded. Your letter also states that in light of all the uncertainties around the air quality prediction model used by regulators in these designations efforts and the almost 1 full year of actual monitored data that shows the air quality is far below the standard, we need more information before a correct designation decision can be made. Lastly, you recommended that we reconsider our February 17, 2016, decision to designate the Franklin County Missouri Area as "non-attainment" so that additional technically sound data can be gathered to make a correct designation.

Your letter will be included as a public submission in the rulemaking docket, and we will consider your comments in making our final designation decision for the Franklin Country Missouri Area.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Mathias of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5310.

Sincerely,

Janet G. McCabe
Acting Assistant Administrator